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FM AMCONSUL LAGOS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9511
INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE
RUEHUJA/AMEMBASSY ABUJA 9281
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0800
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0033
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO 0141
RUEHVB/AMEMBASSY ZAGREB 0062
RUFOADA/JAC MOLESWORTH AFB UK
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC
RHMCSUU/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LAGOS 000694

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED - HANDLE ACCORDINGLY
SIPDIS

STATE FOR AF/W, INR/AA, DS/IP/AF, DS/ICI/PII, DS/DSS/OSAC,
CA/OCS/ACS/AF
OSLO FOR HELENA SCHRADER
DOE FOR GPERSON, CAROLYN GAY
TREASURY FOR ASEVERENS, SRENENDER, DFIELDS
COMMERCE FOR KBURRESS
STATE PASS USTR FOR ASST USTR FLISER
STATE PASS TRANSPORTATION FOR MARAD
STATE PASS OPIC FOR ZHAN AND MSTUCKART
STATE PASS TDA FOR NCABOT
STATE PASS EXIM FOR JRICHTER
STATE PASS USAID FOR GWEYNAND AND SLAWAETZ

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ASEC](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [NI](#)

SUBJECT: NIGER DELTA ROUNDUP: HOSTAGES RELEASED, PORT
HARCOURT POLITICS, CHILD KIDNAPPINGS

REF: LAGOS 692

Three Expats, Four Nigerians Released

¶1. (SBU) Three expatriates (Russian, Croatian, and British nationals), and four Nigerian hostages were released around 17:00 on October 22, two days after having been kidnapped offshore Bayelsa State, according to Shell representatives (Reftel). Shell attributed the release to quick community and GON intervention.

¶2. (SBU) Shell representatives said militants attacked its security and accommodation vessels, but not the floating production storage and offloading (FPSO) vessel, located at the EA Field. Militants hijacked a 14-meter "Surfer 141" boat designed with deep water capability and a 40 passenger capacity.

¶3. (SBU) Chevron reported that at approximately 18:00 on October 20, 2 hours before militants attacked Shell's vessels offshore Bayelsa, militants in 3 boats boarded a security vessel off Delta State while navy personnel were asleep. The militants took the military's weapons but there were no injuries.

Potential Mayhem Following Supreme
Court Ruling on Rivers Governorship

¶4. (SBU) On October 25 the Supreme Court will hear and possibly rule on a case presented by the former Speaker of Rivers State House of Assembly, Chief Rotimi Amaechi, who is contesting the People's Democratic Party (PDP) decision to replace his name with sitting Governor Celestine Omechia's on the governorship ballot. (Note: It is widely believed in Rivers that Amaechi's name was replaced by Omechia's because the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission had a substantial dossier on Amaechi, who is closely aligned with former Rivers Governor Peter Odili. End Note.) Security sources warned the city of Port Harcourt, Rivers State, could become tense following the Supreme Court's decision.

¶5. (SBU) However, a Port Harcourt-based contact did not predict immediate violence following the Supreme Court's announcement. Instead, he questioned what decision would be given. If the final decision results in the holding of new elections, one could expect violence from the Ikwerre riverine communities as they may feel they lost their shot at the governorship (both Omechia and Amaechi are Ikwerre).

Port Harcourt Child Kidnappings Continue

¶6. (U) Three Nigerian children were recently kidnapped in separate instances in Port Harcourt. Two of the children's parents were employed by Total, one by Shell. Company representatives believe the kidnappings were criminal in nature as they targeted affluent Nigerian families en route to school. (Note: Child kidnappings in Port Harcourt became frequent in June, after Delta and Bayelsa-state based militants declared a ceasefire. End Note.) A child kidnapped

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in early September was killed around October 15; the kidnappers demanded a ransom but this was never paid.
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